

The Lion Cub Raised by a Terrier

DAVID STARKEY

reminds me of the porcupine
 reared by a manatee, the raven
that came unexpectedly under the care
 of a potato bug, the snapping
 turtle brought up by a trout.
My step-mother, too, God
 bless her, wherever she is,

must be counted among this weird tribe,
 she who stumbled into the house
of a lonely man and his furious son
 and did her best to substitute
 for a suddenly beatified dead woman.
Impossible! Though she tried, she tried,
 while I stole her keys and purse,

sold her jewelry and accused her
 of every sin I'd read about
or witnessed in my secreted copies
 of *Hustler* and *High Society*,
 though at times she must have felt
like a sunfish nurturing a red-tailed hawk,
 or an Arctic hare raising an Arctic fox.